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Hasbro Children's Hospital
The Pediatric Division of Rhode Island Hospital
A Lifespan Partner



The CHAMPS Program
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The **CHAMPS** Program

Comprehensive *Health Assessment and Management for Pediatric Survivors*



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Advancing Medicine. Touching Lives.

One of every 500 young adults in the United States is a survivor of childhood cancer. The CHAMPS Program at Hasbro Children's Hospital is here to keep childhood cancer survivors healthy.

Cancer research has had amazing success in curing childhood cancer. Almost 85 percent of children with cancer now become long-term survivors. Unfortunately, cancer therapies used in the past were often harsh, especially for the growing child. New treatments have been designed to reduce risk, but still can cause problems because of increased intensity and use of new drugs. The long-term side effects of cancer treatment can arise years after the patient is cured. Our patients deserve the most up-to-date medical care so that these late effects do not affect long-term health.

Planning to Live a Healthy Life

Just as Hasbro Children's Hospital provides the best treatments to cure children's cancer, we also offer the best care to prevent, reduce the risk, or manage late effects among childhood cancer survivors. The CHAMPS (Comprehensive Health Assessment and Management for Pediatric Survivors) Program at Hasbro Children's Hospital offers thorough health assessments, education about late effects, counseling, and management of conditions that arise following cancer treatment. Our goal is to help childhood cancer survivors experience optimal health throughout adulthood. We also want to learn from their experiences so that children diagnosed with cancer today will have the very best outcomes. Anyone who was treated for cancer as a child or adolescent, is cancer-free, and who is five or more years past diagnosis can participate in the CHAMPS Program.

Services for survivors

The CHAMPS Program provides a thorough evaluation of medical and psychosocial risks related to cancer treatment. The first step is education about personal medical history; many survivors were too young at

diagnosis to understand future risks of their treatment. We advise about continual preventive care that can minimize risk of experiencing late effects.

It is often difficult to explain the impact of childhood cancer to others, even physicians and health providers. We work to help ease the transition of our patients from pediatric health care providers to adult providers. It is critical that a childhood cancer survivor shares his or her treatment history with the health care providers he or she sees throughout adulthood. Common health care issues may need to be addressed differently than in those who have never had cancer. For example, pregnant women who were treated for childhood cancer with specific types of treatment may need additional monitoring of heart function. Working with her obstetrician, the CHAMPS Program at Hasbro Children's Hospital can help ensure a successful pregnancy.

Psychosocial support is important to a survivor's overall health and wellbeing. While family members, friends and support groups can help survivors face post-treatment challenges, the CHAMPS Program can provide experienced psychosocial support that is specific to issues many survivors face. This often involves assistance with education, occupation and personal goals.

Our multidisciplinary team

Cancer treatment can affect many different parts of the body, as well as a patient's emotional wellbeing. A multidisciplinary approach is needed to address these sometimes complex problems. Fortunately, we have a full range of pediatric and adult medical and surgical subspecialists at Hasbro Children's Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital. The CHAMPS Program team comprises pediatric oncologists, nurse practitioners, neuropsychologists, endocrinologists, social workers and nutritionists. Other specialists are available within the Lifespan health care system.

The CHAMPS Program is directed by **Cindy Schwartz, MD**, who is recognized internationally for her expertise in the late effects of pediatric cancer treatment. She is director of the division of hematology-oncology at Hasbro Children's Hospital and a professor of pediatrics at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Before joining Hasbro Children's Hospital, Schwartz was the associate director of clinical programs in pediatric oncology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and director of the Hopkins Long Term Program for Childhood Cancer Survivors.

June Bjerregaard, MSN, FNP brings many years of experience as a family nurse practitioner to her role as coordinator of the CHAMPS Program. She works closely with Cindy Schwartz, MD to coordinate evaluations and referrals to specialists needed for specific areas of expertise.

Fred Barbosa, MSW offers guidance and support for survivors dealing with non-medical life challenges. He also helps survivors overcome obstacles as they coordinate their ongoing medical care.

National research

The CHAMPS Program at Hasbro Children's Hospital participates in national research to help improve treatment of cancer and advance knowledge of the late effects of the disease and its treatment. In addition, we have ongoing studies unique to our hospital that investigate specific long-term consequences of therapy.

Contact us

The CHAMPS Program at Hasbro Children's Hospital offers appointments on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please call **401-444-5241** to refer a patient, schedule an appointment or for more information about the program.